

I, as a customer served by one of the smaller ISPs, am concerned that if BellSouth's petition is granted it would lead to putting other baby-bell's competition out of business and, as a result, will limit customer's choice.

I've been using PacificBell's DSL in the past. Similarly to BellSouth they do provide DSL services and, yes, they do control majority of local market. However, targeting majority of potential customers, baby-bells limit their ability to provide additional services like unix shell accounts, email with spam filtering, gaming servers, etc.

This is the area where independent ISPs step in. If they are barred from getting access to DSL lines, I'm afraid that many people will be left with "[car of] any color, as long as it is black".